

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 190815Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9303

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LOME 1385

PARIS FOR MELONE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN XY PFOR PBOR ML UV

SUBJECT: CEDEAO AND UPPER VOLTA-MALI CONFLICT: REMARKS OF

KOUNTCHE, BEAVOGUI, SENGHOR

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 1479

1. JUNE 17 "TOGO-PRESSE" CARRIES AIRPORT INTERVIEWS GIVEN JUNE
16 BY PRESIDENTS KOUNTCHE AND SENGHOR AND PRIME MINISTER
BEAVOGUI RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ON MALI-UPPER VOLTA CONFLICT
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AND CEDEAO. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS. SENGHOR'S STATEMENT

(PARA 4) MOST IMPORTANT OF THREE, ESPECIALLY ON CEDEAO.

2. KOUNTCHE NOTED THIS WAS FIRST MEDIATION COMMISSION (LMC) CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING SINCE DECEMBER, WHEN IT WAS DECIDED TO CREATE LMC. HOPED "AFRICAN WISDOM WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER PASSIONS" SO AS TO BRING ABOUT SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES; PEACEFUL SOLUTION IS DETERMINING FACTOR FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NOT JUST OF RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, BUT OF WHOLE SUB-REGION. ASKED ABOUT RATIFICATION OF CEDEAO, KOUNTCHE SAID "IT'S ONLY MATTER OF TIME;" SPOKE OF NIGER'S DETERMINATION TO PUT CEDEAO "ON THE TRACKS."

3. ON SUBJECT OF LMC, BEAVOGUI GAVE LENGTHY ENCOMIUM OF EYADEMA, BUT FINALLY SAID, "WE HAVE MADE TRIPS EFFECTIVELY TO THESE COUNTRIES AND I CAN TELL YOU RIGHT AWAY THAT OPTIMISM REIGNS IN BAMAKO AND IN OUAGADOUGOU. SO WE HAVE COME HERE WITH CERTITUDE THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE ARRANGED IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. WE ARE ALL THE MORE CONVINCED WE CAN COUNT ON WISDOM, PERSPICACITY, AND ABSOLUTELY KEEN AND CLEAR MIND WE KNOW GENERAL EYADEMA HAS SO THAT THIS SAD PROBLEM" WILL COME TO AN END.

4. SENGHOR SAID CONFLICT IS SERIOUS SINCE "IT TURNS US ASIDE" FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; HOPED LMC WOULD LEAD TO SOLUTION "DURABLE BECAUSE IT IS JUST." ASKED FOR POSITION ON CEDEAO AS CHAIRMAN OF CEOA, HE SAID "THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN CEOA AND CEDEAO, ANY MORE THAN THERE IS CONTRADICTION BETWEEN SENEGAL-GAMBIA ASSOCIATION, OMVS AND CEOA. IT IS WHAT I CALL CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY. WE BEGAN BY MAKING ASSOCIATION WITH GAMBIA AND WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH BIGGER AND BIGGER CIRCLES. AFTER CEOA THERE IS CEDEAO." SENGHOR SAID THAT AT CREATION OF OAU IN 1963 HE ADVOCATED "INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES" BETWEEN NATIONAL COMMUNITIES AND ONE CONTINENTAL COMMUNITY, SUCH AS NORTH AFRICA, EAST AFRICA, WEST AFRICA. "NOT ONLY AM I FOR CEDEAO BUT I WOULD LIKE IT TO EXTEND AS FAR AS ANGOLA. BESIDES, CHIEFS OF STATE AT LAGOS ALL RECOGNIZED THAT CEDEAO, A REGIONAL COMMUNITY, WAS NOT OPPOSED TO SUB-REGIONAL COMMUNITIES." ASKED IF IT WOULD BE A LONG TIME BEFORE SENEGAL RATIFIES, PRESIDENT SAID SENEGAL WANTED TO BUILD SOMETHING "SOLID, NOT FRAGILE. WE THINK THE PROTOCOLS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN TREATY ITSELF. THAT IS REASON WHY, WHEN WE ARE IN AGREEMENT ON PROTOCOLS, SENEGAL UNCLASSIFIED

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